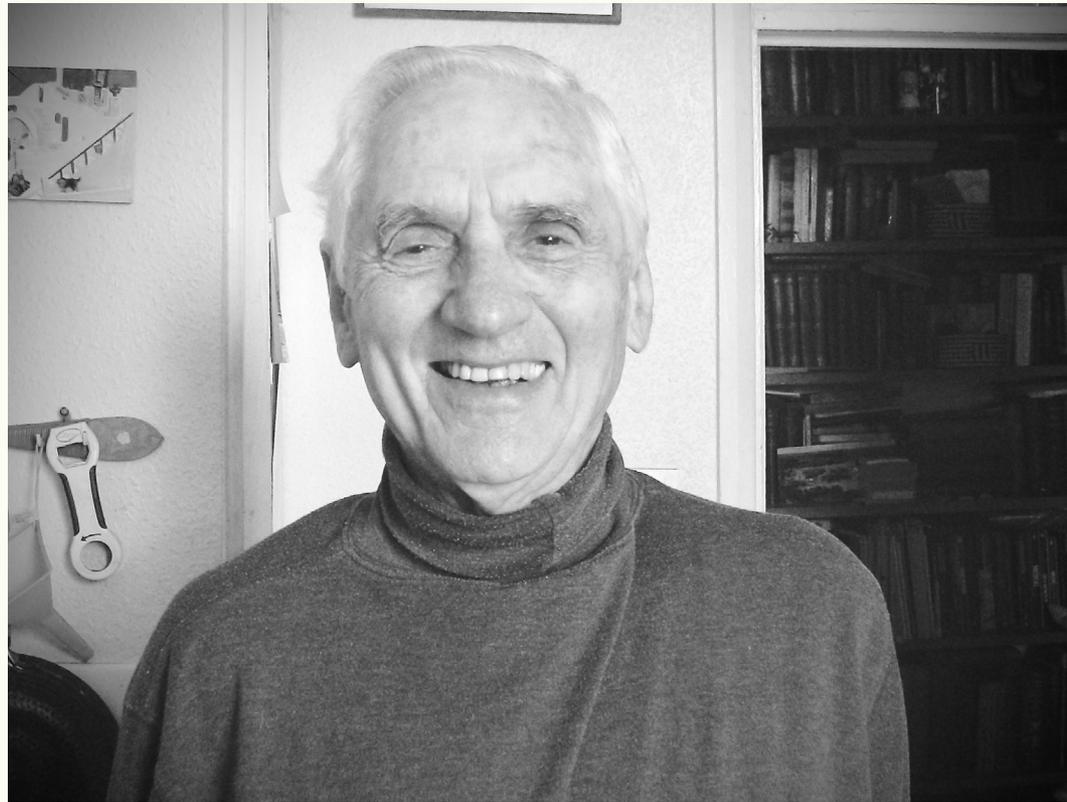


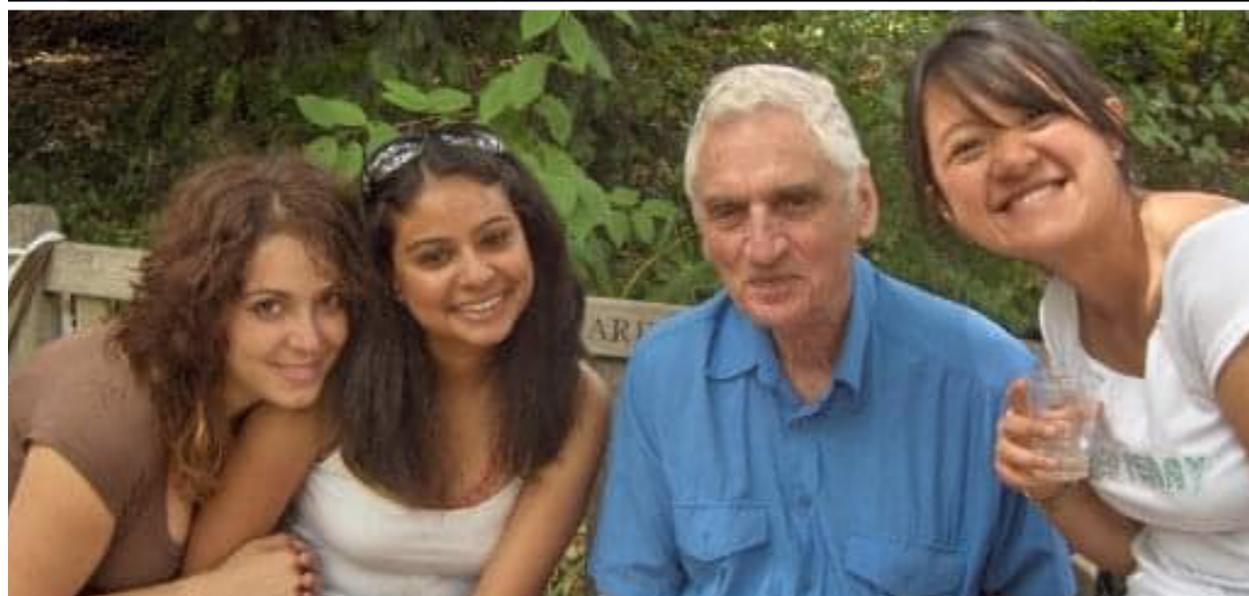
J.A.L. Sterling



17 April 1927 – 29 November 2020



There is no other scholar in the IP world, past or present, who had a greater impact in his students and colleagues. Adrian's intellect, passion and, above all, his kindness will be sadly missed but his greatest gifts to us are his significant body of foundational scholarly work and the inspiration he gave to generations of IP scholars and practitioners around the world whose lives were changed for the better by knowing him.



[Watch Professor Sterling's message to the Class of 2006-7 on Facebook.](#)



Professor Duncan Matthews

I had the immense pleasure of attending Professor Sterling lessons back in 2014 and certainly he was one of the best and most passionate teachers I have ever had. But most importantly, he was a great person that will be very missed. My condolences to his beloved wife and whole family.

Carlos Garcia Berned

What a wonderful life. Your teachings and the manner of it will forever be imbibed in me. You captured the imagination through the law of copyrights for many.. You will be dearly missed. Condolences to the family.

V.C. MATHEWS

As an alumni of Queen Mary IP LLM programme, I would like to sincerely send my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Sterling. Mr. Sterling was an awesome Professor.

Nicolas Hamblenne

Prof. Sterling was a gentleman and a great scholar. He is missed.

Dr Luke McDonagh

Thanks to the fantastic lessons of Prof. Sterling I was able to appreciate the interesting angles of copyright law. he had a great sense of humor, the greatest of any professor I have ever had. Thank you Professor.

Sergio Miralles Miravet

I remember Professor Sterling fondly and his love of *Gone with the Wind*. I remember him asking me what the old capital of Ireland was and when I said Dublin he said “no, its Tara!”. He will be fondly remembered.

Dr Gemma O’Farrell Class of 2007

It was such a honour to have Adrian as a Professor of copyright law. All my thoughts are with his family and friends.

Sonsoles Pajares Rivas

I will never forget his passion for teaching, for having international treaties approved, for inspiring the students, for being a great human being, for rehearsing Shakespeare in class, for inviting his students for spending Christmas over his place! Each of us, students, we have learned a lot from him. He is eternalised in our memories and hearts.

Mauricio Maleck Coutinho

“Per correr miglior acque alza le vele” Grazie Professore, grazie Adrian.

I was so sorry to hear about the passing of our beloved Professor Sterling. He made my year at Queen Mary such a great experience. I remember the lectures and seminars of course, but Professor and Caroline made us feel welcome. At the Heath and in their garden and in their home. I also with great pleasure remember returning to London some years after I graduated. I came to visit Professor and Caroline at their Notting Hill flat and it was like no time at all had passed. Like I was still in the class. Such fond memories. I send my warmest thoughts to Caroline.

Maria Mercedes Frabboni (with Alex, Tommaso, Luigi and the family)

Karl Malm (formerly Göransson)

To Sir, With Love. My dearest Professor Sterling, I just wanted to say Thank You. You've been a remarkable professor, a brilliant mind and, to an awkward Indian girl back in 2011, a genuine friend. I remember that first Copyright class so clearly, where you "Berne'd" your way through the lecture, and I was just left with such awe and admiration. Through the course of the year, my awe and admiration evolved into so much more. Through the lessons you taught in class and out of it, the BLACA meetings, through the hikes at Hampstead Heath, the walks through Legal London, the beers at pubs at Fleet Street, the chats at Ladbroke Square Garden and so much more. Caroline and you were ever so kind, to have invited me to your home, multiple times, and to have shared your meals and your travel anecdotes with me. I remember, most vividly, attending mass with both of you at St. John's, a day after my birthday because you had simply insisted that hearing the choir that day would be the best Birthday present I could get that year. And it was. I fondly cherish the Christmas Ornament that you gave me after mass that evening, which I will proudly hang on my Christmas Tree this Christmas. And the best thing about all of this is, that I know that as much as you've made me feel incredibly special, you have, through your years, done the same for so many of us in a thousand different ways and built up our self-confidence while constantly nurturing and guiding us. You've given us so much, and put a little of yourself into us ever so gently, that even though you're gone, you continue to shine within us. Everything I am and will be, I owe largely to the belief you showed in me. You have been, by far, the very best teacher and mentor that I have ever had, and it will remain one of my life's greatest achievements, to have had the opportunity to have met and known you. It's been an honour, professor. A privilege. And an absolute pleasure. In the words you last said to me, "Au revoir, you'll be in my thoughts." Always. Thank You Professor

Divya Alexander

I met Adrian Sterling in September 1996 and found his copyright lectures mesmerising, so much so that he became my PhD Supervisor. Throughout the 4 years that followed I got to know Adrian and Caroline well. And my learnings went far beyond the realms of Copyright Law. They set an example hard to follow in terms of kindness, generosity, wisdom and, above all, faith. I have always found it priceless. I learnt that there is a lot in life that one cannot control and that what one can decide one must decide from a place of courage, hope and faith. Thank you for all Adrian. Rest in Peace "Le travail du cordonnier produit la chaussure, Le travail de l'auteur produit l'oeuvre littéraire ou artistique; La chaussure est faite pour le pied, L'oeuvre est faite pour l'esprit; Le pied va vers le tombeau, L'esprit va vers l'infini: Voila la différence." Lines dedicated by Professor Adrian Sterling to Valerio de Sanctis, Paris 1978.

Patricia Akester

Thank you for all inspiring talks and insights during my time at Queen Mary.

Julius Berg Kaasin

Dear Caroline, I was so sad to hear such sad news. I have the best of memories of this GREAT person I have had the chance to learn with. I also remember you in the back of the classroom, always there as Adrian's support to teach us the class. Definitely an example of love and dedication to each other. It was a pleasure having met Adrian and you, and I can attest that his legacy lies inside me. My deepest thoughts are with you and your loves ones. I will send to Uma a copy of a picture our class took with Adrian at the end of the LLM and will request to send to you. Best wishes. Carolina

Carolina Caneira

Dear Caroline, Sincerest condolences on the loss of Adrian. He was a towering and visionary figure in international copyright. And the kindest of colleagues. All the best Jane

Prof. Jane Ginsburg

I am deeply moved and sorry to have learned about you passing away Professor Sterling. I will always cherish the memories we built, your teaching and your brilliant mind. You changed by professional and consequently human path. I express my sincere condolence to Caroline. You two were and are the true meaning of unconditional love. Beyond grateful for having been your student. You will be deeply missed. Yours Eleonora.

Eleonora Curreri

Adrian, you were a great teacher and a great person, thank you for everything. Me and my wife Jana will never forget the guided tour around the Inner Temple you gave us. Caroline, please accept our deepest condolences.

Jakub Mencil

So sorry to hear of Adrian's passing, such a lovely man and a pleasure to work with.

Gina Hickey

I have just received the sad message and would like to share some memories with you. I was an international LL.M. student in 2005/2006 and had the great joy to visit Prof Sterling's lecture on copyright law at Queen Mary (and the honour to be invited to his Christmas gathering for international students). About 10 years later (!), I went on a trip to London and spontaneously stopped by at one of his lectures just in order to thank him in person once more for his dedicated teaching one decade ago. Indeed, Prof Sterling has always remained a perfect example for me for teaching with passion and enthusiasm. Kindly, he once more invited me to his Christmas gathering. I will always remember him for being the most inspiring and wonderful lecturer I know. With sincere condolences - Sabine Boos (Germany)

Sabine Boos

15 years after greatly enjoying the copyright classes of Prof. Sterling I have actually sorted the photos of my LL.M. time in London over the last weekend and had fond memories of the Christmas party at Prof. Sterling's house in 2005. I will always keep him in good memory.

Dr. Christoph Rieken LL.M. (Queen Mary)

He touched the hearts of so many students, and will forever be remembered!

Cassio Mosse

It was a privilege to be taught by Professor Sterling, and to experience his fatherly generosity; in my case, grandfatherly. Adrian joined my supervisors, whom he had also taught, to help prepare me for my PhD viva. He gave me many books gratis over the years, even recently, and was a vast reservoir of knowledge and genuine warmth. I will always be grateful. His passing on is a huge loss, and my prayers go out for his wife Caroline, and for the IP law community that will miss him dearly. God bless Adrian's soul.

Dr Mary Gani

I fondly remember Professor Sterling teaching us Copyright law and throwing light on topics of interest during class that intrigued the intellectual property law world. His perspective about law, life and the works made him a source to reckon with. Thank you Professor Sterling for guiding me and making me love intellectual property law. You will always remain in my thoughts. May you rest in peace.

Vidya Nair

So sad to learn about Sterling Sir's demise, I will always remember him as the most passionate teacher ever. Sterling Sir had a very unique style of teaching which made one fall in love with the subject. Will miss him, may his soul rest in peace. Heartfelt condolences to the family.

Deepali Ohri

Adrian was a man of superior intellect who showed a genuine interest, displayed with the greatest simplicity, in the people he met. His enthusiasm and energy personified what it meant to be “so alive”. I’ll always remember how we met at a conference on the teaching of copyright law. I couldn’t believe how someone of such stature could be so cordial and easy-going with an unknown student from Montreal who was to embark on her doctoral studies. He has accompanied my studies and professional life steadfastly since then. Up there in paradise, I’m sure he has already found a group of souls with whom to discuss copyright relations between paradise and earth while wondering if the nether world should be admitted in this new Union where the rule of the shorter term takes on a totally new dimension. Caroline must miss him so much! My most heartfelt condolences to her.

Ysolde Gendreau (Montreal, Canada)

It is with great sadness that I learnt the demise of Prof Sterling. I met him in 2008 during the WIPO-BCC advanced training on Copyright and related rights in London. He was a man with a unique calmness always delighted to learn about the legal framework of Copyright in other countries. What an amazing person and what a remarkable life. I feel so lucky that I got to know him. May his soul rest in peace!

Didier Jeewooth- Copyright Management Society of the Republic of Mauritius

This is a great loss. My sincere condolences to the bereaved and the entire Copyright family worldwide. MHSRIEP the copyright guru.

Lightwell Kachigamba Benjamin

My condolences to the family and friends of Adrian Sterling. I met him only once or twice so I knew him chiefly through his published work - which was enough to show that the author was a remarkable man. He was able to adapt his knowledge and understanding of copyright to the massive changes in the environment taking place during his long career. The work will be a lasting monument.

Professor Hector MacQueen

I will always remember and keep in my heart Prof Sterling. He was a fantastic teacher, who was not only passionate in what he did, but he took special care on his students. I have fantastic memories of him, his lectures and the trips and events he organised for us students. Thank you professor! My sincere condolences to his family.

Francesca La Rocca

Having worked with him for several years on the KCL Diploma in Comparative Copyright Law, I know well how much Adrian was adored by his students for his avuncular kindness and generosity with his time. He formed special connections and made the students feel listened to and valued. He will be remembered fondly by all who knew him. My deepest condolences to Caroline.

Lionel Bently

Adrian was a great character. Inspiring, warm, open. He will be missed.

Prof. Guido Westkamp

Prof. J.A.L Sterling made my stay and research at the then Queen Mary Intellectual Property Institute interesting and memorable. We would spend hours discussing copyright issues and also had fun times with his wife. They enjoyed the Amarula which I would bring back when I came from home. He was a great person and we shall miss him dearly.

Marisella Ouma PhD

This is incredibly sad news. My condolences to Prof Sterling's family and close ones. It was an honour sitting in his classroom during my LLM at Queen Mary. Such a humble and kind person, who dedicated so much to his students. This week I'm submitting my PhD thesis on the very subject of copyright law. Prof Sterling's contribution to that field of law is immense...I would not even attempt to define it, but it suffices to say that if someone cares about copyright law in space, then this person's legacy stays beyond themselves, for centuries and beyond this universe. Our academic world will miss his genuine and humble presence, but I am sure he will live through for decades and centuries through his work and his students. Thank you for the inspiration!

Alina Trapova

Having been taught by Prof. Sterling was an unforgettable experience, and a privilege. A wonderful teacher, a fantastic communicator and great mentor - he commanded our absolute respect, admiration and affection - yet wore it all so very lightly. Always full of life and fun, his humour was infectious, and his kindness touched each one of us who came in to his presence. He radiated positivity and optimism quite unlike anyone else I have known. His passing is without doubt, a massive loss, and I know I echo the thoughts of so many of his students when I say that his legacy extends far beyond his formidable scholarship. Rest well sir. You will be deeply missed.

Paramita DasGupta [LL.M. (2009-2010)]

Professor Sterling was a living legend of contemporary copyright law, having played a prominent role in all major developments of international copyright in the last half a century. He will be greatly missed as a scholar, an educator and a true gentleman with a great sense of humour. My deepest condolences to his family.

***Professor Maurizio Borghi - Centre for Intellectual Property Policy & Management,
Bournemouth University***

Adrian was always a role model for me as a teacher, with his ability to enthuse and inspire students through his passion and enjoyment of the subject matter. I was in awe of his ability to remember the names of every one of his students, although something I have never be able to match! His contribution to the success and growth of intellectual property law at the Centre was immense and he has, and will continue to be, greatly missed.

Professor Ian Walden

Losing someone we love is nothing easy, but knowing that we shared this short yet marvelous journey may bring comfort. My sincere Condolence. I ran into Professor Sterling and Caroline before the lectures on world copyright. My request to record to lectures was granted by Professor Sterling as long as I can give him a copy. This marked our first chat. Later he and Caroline invited me to join them on Christmas Eve and Hampstead Heath walk. For a student who was on his first-year oversea study, their help and comfort had been tremendous. For all the help and guide I received from Professor and Caroline, I feel deeply grateful.

Stanley Lu

We have the warmest memories of first meeting Adrian and Caroline at the Berne Centenary Celebrations at Berne in 1986. This friendship continued over succeeding years, notwithstanding our locations at opposite ends of the earth, and we last saw them both in January. 2019. We always enjoyed Adrian's wit, erudition and enthusiasm, and he will be sorely missed at both a personal and professional level. He had an enormous fund of knowledge of copyright issues going back to his early experiences in Switzerland in the 1950s, a love for the subject that was inspiring, and a readiness to share his insights and experiences. It was a great privilege to have known him, and our love to Caroline at this sad time.

Sam Ricketson and Rosemary Ayton

Rest in eternal peace. You are a legend.

Faith Amatika-Omondi

Very sad to hear of the passing of Professor Sterling. Hard to overestimate the contribution he made to the world of copyright.

Nick Dunmur

I am deeply saddened to hear the news about Professor Adrian Sterling. He was a benevolent and kind person, whose words of wisdom on copyright were extraordinary and thought-provoking. I will miss hearing his opinions on the future of copyright and where he believed it was heading. He also made important early contributions to the BCC's Copyright Education and Awareness group, as an eternal advocate for copyright education.

Isabelle Doran, Chair, British Association of Picture Libraries & Agencies, and Board Member, British Copyright Council

Adrian was always very welcoming and patient - a great copyright figure.

Association of Illustrators

Dear Caroline, I was deeply saddened to hear Adrian passed away. I will always remember the first I met him at the Southbank Centre and how warm and welcoming and full of positive and enthusiastic energy he was. I will treasure the moments I spent with him and you all my life and I hope all the memories of these moments you and him have had with so many students will help you bear his absence. I wish you much strength in these sad moments. Estelle

Estelle Derclaye

We cherish fond memories of Prof at QM and the very thoughtful picnic. A wonderful person with great passion to copyright

Amar Lingala

On behalf of the Intellectual Property Office of the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I express condolences on the passing of the perfect gentleman and mentor Professor Adrian Sterling. Professor Sterling inspired me to do my distance learning masters at University of London in Intellectual Property Law after spending two weeks in London at the BCC in 2010. His passion for copyright and his larger than life personality inspired many in that cohort. I will always remember the storied walk along the embankment with him. May he Rest In Peace.

Regan Asgarali Controller of Intellectual Property of Trinidad and Tobago

I will never forget his kindness. May God give him eternal rest and the family the strength to bear the great pain.

Minh Duc Le

It is very sad the lost of Mr. Sterling - a very special human being. After 12 years, I still remember him with a great respect as a real gentleman, as a nice person who radiated positive energy all around, who made so attractive the copyright lessons/examples during our course at British Copyright Council. Condolences!

Ms. Merita Cenaj - attended the course on copyright at BCC in October 2008, as a representative of Albanian of Copyright Office.

So sorry to hear of the passing of Adrian, he was of enormous help and support to me when I was applying the intricacies of performers' rights to the MU collective bargaining agreements. I presented at a number of seminars that he moderated and while he was challenging, in a very friendly way, he was always extremely encouraging. He will be missed by all in the music industry who administer copyright and neighbouring rights. My sincere condolences to Caroline and his family.

John F Smith OBE

What I am feeling right now is hard to put into words. Adrian, Prof. Sterling, was such an inspiration for me and for so many people. He was more than a teacher for me and I cannot be happier or more proud to be one of his students. It is hard to express his influence on me here, however I am more than grateful for all the moments and memories that we had shared. I -like so many people around the world- share in your grief. My thoughts and prayers will always be with him. My heart goes out to you all...

Selva Kaynak Koç

My deepest condolences. I had the pleasure and honour of having numerous conversations with Adrian over the years, at CCLS and Cumberland Lodge. He was an intellectual, but also a gentleman who was always keen to talk with those around him. His continued dedication to future generations of lawyers is what touched the minds and hearts of many. May he rest in peace.

Theodora Christou

Thank you, you have been my inspiration and role model as an academic researcher and teacher since I did my LLM at Queen Mary in the 90'. You will never be forgotten.

Ulrika Wennersten. Senior lecturer Lund University

You have been a real Original. RIP

Hubert Wagner

Adrian Sterling taught me international copyright law. It was the first time he and Gerald Dworkin taught the class. The trip to Keats' House and Hampstead Heath were memorable, but Adrian's dedication and love of teaching was beyond measure. To Caroline, I wish you a long life.

Professor Susy Frankel

I first met Adrian in about 1992 at an international copyright law conference. We subsequently spent much time together travelling around Europe and I remember in particular a conference in Athens in May 1994 when I showed him around the city. He was a fantastic inspiration to me and was perpetually awed by his copyright knowledge and passion. He was very much a one off and I don't think we will see his like again. I will miss him greatly.

Nick Kounoupia

So honoured to have had the privilege to meet and interview Prof Sterling as part of my LL.M dissertation on copyright law at King's College London. Prof Sterling was an incredibly gracious and nurturing man who welcomed me with open arms and imbued an immense amount of knowledge that one couldn't help feeling overwhelmed to be in his presence. Incredibly sad to have lost an incredible academic and brilliant mind but will forever remain humbled and grateful for the knowledge he imparted. Thank you for all you did Prof Sterling, eternally grateful.

Joan Scott, LL.M

Professor Adrian Sterling was the Prof i/c my PG Dip copyright law course with Kings College London. We didn't always agree on copyright policy matters but he was always fair, encouraged freedom of thought and differing points of view and indeed he was a real gentleman. Rest in Peace.

Barbara Stratton, Vice-Chair, Libraries & Archives Copyright Alliance, UK

Thank you for the valuable insights you have given, it's been a privilege to have been taught by you Sir.

Shobana Iyer

I met Professor Sterling during my 2007/2008 LL.M. classes at Queen Mary. I remember that he welcomed me as His first copyright student from Poland. Professor Sterling was not only an excellent expert and scholar in the field of IP, but he was an extraordinary person. His copyright classes were one of a kind, very educative and, yet, very entertaining, rich in interesting stories and anecdotes. Professor Sterling was always full of energy and new ideas, truly interested in getting to know his students better. Very positive, very kind, very good person. I am very honored to be one of His students. My deepest condolences to the Family.

Jakub Mrozowski

Discussing global copyright with Adrian was always an enjoyable challenge. I always ended up with a deeper understanding of all matters copyright, but above all Adrian was one of those wonderful people whose company and warmth one cherishes.

Paul Torremans

Adrian was a great copyright lawyer. He was also one of the kindest and warm people you could met. A big loss to the world of copyright. A bigger loss as a man. Robin

Professor Sir Robin Jacob

Even though it is now 20 years ago, I remember Professor Sterling's lessons as if they were yesterday. I never had a professor who could teach so enthusiastically that an entire auditorium hung on his lips. His anecdotes about the origins of the Berne Convention were legendary and will always stay with me. Not only was he an excellent teacher, he was also a beautiful person, who maintained a warm relationship with all his students; a real father figure. He will be missed.

Inge Vanderveken

Adrian Sterling was indeed a great teacher, able to communicate his passion for copyright law - and for the underlying worlds of creativity - , but he was even greater in the small moments of get together, when he could reveal more of his profound goodness and fondness for people - and a small, portable bottle of whisky could help sometimes! I have not heard about his beloved wife, Caroline, for a long time, but I think of her in these circumstances. We will remember Adrian beyond his contributions to copyright law.

Prof. Alain Strowel

I have very fond memories of studying internet and comparative copyright law in 1996-97 under Professor Sterling during my LLM, including the class trip to Kenwood House. He was a great inspiration for me. My condolences to his family.

Frank Jennings

Professor Sterling was an inspired teacher and admirable scholar. RIP.

Dr Gail Evans

Adrian will always be remembered in the Asian Pacific Region as the founder and patron of the Asian Pacific Copyright Association (APCA). I have fond memories of discussions with Adrian and Caroline in Beijing and London and (virtually) in Wellington as we set up APCA. Since 2011, APCA has gone from strength to strength, much of its success due to Adrian's enthusiasm and encouragement. Please accept both APCA's and my personal condolences. APCA plans to hold a seminar in Adrian's honour in 2021.

Adjunct Professor Susan Corbett, Victoria University of Wellington (President Asian Pacific Copyright Association)

ALAI Czech Republic deeply regrets the loss of prominent copyright scholar and commemorates his legacy in its community.

ALAI Czech Republic, Rudolf Leška

Such a wonderful man and great scholar. I treasure his book on World Copyright Law. RIP. May his memory be a blessing.

Howard Knopf

dear Professor Sterling, I studied with you at King's College and your classes were so brilliant and so entertaining. There are only few professors with whom you learn a topic and thoroughly enjoy learning it. You were one of them and these Saturday and Sundays in London will remain forever in my memory. may you rest in peace.

Anne Bergman-Tahon

Prof Sterling was an enthusiastic advocate for copyright. He had a lovely way of explaining the law which made it accessible and interesting. It was a privilege to have known him.

Mr Justice Colin Birss

Adrian was my fascinating tutor at KCL when I did my PG Dip in UK, EU and US Law of Copyright & Related Rights. I loved the way he would quiz our responses, kind of teasing us into an explanation, defence - or a realisation that we'd just been talking rubbish! He was a towering figure (who else could have conceived a World Copyright Code?), and I still refer to his course material from time to time in my current role as IP Manager at the Tate Gallery.

Bernard Horrocks

I was very sad to hear that Adrian had died. He was an amazing teacher, a brilliant intellect and was always supportive of students and colleagues.

Laurence Oxenbury

Adrian Sterling had departed for private practice six years before I joined IFPI but he was still a giant presence in the corridors of our offices in Pall Mall. And he remained a hugely influential figure in British and international copyright law ever since. Even though we were never contemporaries at IFPI, he was always willing, even eager, to discuss points of copyright law and how it applied in various jurisdictions around the world. I shall miss him very much. My sincere condolences to Adrian's family. He cast a giant shadow.

Mike Edwards

I worked alongside Adrian on the British Copyright Council and elsewhere. He was always hugely supportive and generous-spirited as well as being full of gusto. I wish all family and friends the very best at this difficult time.

Hugo Cox

I received the sad news of the passing away of Prof. Sterling. The first time I have met him was in December 1996 in London. His great impression remains unforgettable. We had met several times, until I met him for the last time probably in 2012 in London. He was always quite kind to everyone, especially to Asian people. I am sure that he and his words will remain long in my memory. Thank you indeed, Prof. Sterling.

Tatsuhiko UENO (Professor, Waseda University in Tokyo)

Professor Adrian Sterling was my Professor during my LLM studies, later to be my colleague at CCLS. I will always remember his kindness, insights, brilliant sense of humour and incredible wealth of knowledge; he was a true Renaissance man. May he rest in peace.

Noam Shemtov

You were the most compassionate, encouraging and supportive person I ever had the pleasure to work with. Your legacy is visible in every student you taught and impacted on. You will be sadly missed but your impact will be visible for years to come.

Sharon Watson

Sorry to hear of your loss. Adrian was a gentleman and I will always have fond memories of him.

Sarah Batty

Adrian was one of my favourite human beings and not just in the enchanted circle of international copyright enthusiasts to which and to whom he contributed so much. His erudition, his wide-ranging interests, and ability to encourage his students and befriend his colleagues especially beyond merely the U.K. (as it is still described currently) has been striking. I have known, admired him and happily been one of his friends for over fifty years. We have worked together with pleasure in ALAI and BLACA, and elsewhere. A gentle sense of fun was never lacking. Caroline and Adrian together made a remarkable couple were a privilege and pleasure for my wife, Dora, and me to know. They have handed on important lasting values to many younger people. We miss Adrian. We wish Caroline well.

Jack Black

Professor Sterling will remain in the minds of students as not only an excellent teacher with tremendous passion and a great ability to transmit it to his students with incredible energy but also as a very kind hearted man who truly worried about his students' happiness. I am personally deeply saddened to read that he has left us. He is one of the teachers I like to talk about when mentioning great scholars. My deepest condolences to his family. He will be missed on this earth and in space.

Navid RENARD

Sitting in my office, still consulting the notes of the copyright course at King's College in 2000 and celebrating Prof Sterling's life - a life well lived and a life that touched mine and inspired my passion for copyright. Very sorry to hear of his passing - the copyright world has lost one of its great advocates.

Alan Rae

I was very sorry to read that Adrian is no longer with us. I was honoured to lecture with him at the Cambridge IP Summer School for a number of years, but think he taught me more than I taught the attendees. His ability to convey complex subjects in down-to-earth terms was a true gift, and his passing references to his participation in the negotiation of major copyright treaties was unbeatable. My best wishes to all his friends and family, especially Caroline, who was such an unfailing support.

Catriona Smith

What an unbelievable intellect and mentor in the world of copyright law!

Paul Graham

I am saddened to hear about the loss of Prof. Sterling. I still vividly remember his lectures on International Copyright, and the passion with which he narrated the stories behind every single treaty. His walks around Hampstead Heath were an annual unmissable event, an occasion to celebrate with him the end of the exams. My thoughts are with his wife and his family. Prof. Sterling will be missed a lot, not only as an outstanding advocate and academic in the field of copyright law but also as an incredible person who deeply cared about students.

Giancarlo Moretti

I was deeply saddened to hearing about the passing of Professor Sterling. I studied a King's in the mid-1990 and Professor taught international and comparative law of copyrights. He was knowledgeable, enthusiastic and humorous. His passion and professionalism was infectious and inspiring. Tea at Ladbroke Square, picnic at the heath and touring Kenwood House, all fond and rich memories showing that he went beyond teaching, that he cared about his students, also after they left university. For me, he truly made a difference. Rest well Professor Sterling, your passion and generosity will be missed

Thorbjørn Swanstrøm, lawyer (Denmark), LL.M (KCL)

Professor Sterling was an inspiration. Not only he was a fantastic lecturer and a storyteller, he was a kind person. My condolences to his family and friends.

Pedro Malaquias

Adrian (Professor Adrian Sterling) was my inspiring teacher of copyright and later became a friend. His kindness and generosity pervaded everything he did. His teaching was enthusiastic and clear with an emphasis on principles and concepts (as he demonstrated in his comparative copyright/author's right classes), and underpinned by vast knowledge and a great sense of humour. Even during my own copyright teaching I still frequently remember explanations, scenes and sequences from Adrian's lectures 25 years ago. Adrian personified the idea that copyright is not just a set of rules, but involved with art and culture, and he loved talking about literature or Beethoven as much as he loved talking about copyright. After a conversation with Adrian one always went away more educated and more civilised – be it some information until when the 1911 Act or the 1956 Act applied in the (former) British colonies/dependencies/ commonwealth states, or that Beethoven's last stay in the countryside before his death was in Gneixendorf (near Krems, Austria) which Adrian of course visited with his wife, Caroline. Those who knew Adrian will always have fond memories of him.

Prof. Andreas Rahmatian, University of Glasgow

For Adrian, his unique expertise and his unwavering enthusiasm for copyright. My condolences to Caroline and the family.

Jan Rosen

To Adrian's family, please receive my sorrows and sympathies. Adrian was one of the nicest person I met, a great Professor, and a great man. He knew more about French droit d'auteur than me and most French lawyers. He was a real encyclopedia, a living encyclopedia of copyright and droit d'auteur. I will miss him deeply. I remember him talking to me and students about this amazing trip on motorcycle through France he did in his youth, and of many other things that had nothing to do with law, but a lot to do with life.

Pascal Kamina, Professor of Law, Université de Franche-comté, France.

Like so many people around the world I'm saddened by the loss of Adrian. My heart goes out to Caroline who must be missing him terribly. On the more celebratory side - and there is much to celebrate - where does one start? What a life Adrian had one to be measured less by its duration than by its rich and life-affirming quality. Adrian was such an erudite man but with none of the airs and graces that tend to accompany that amount of learning. I have such fond memories of quizzes where we were fierce but friendly competitors. He enjoyed a bit of competition and like me didn't mind a bit of showing off. He always greeted me warmly in such a friendly welcoming manner that made you feel there was no distance between you and him; and from the time I first met him in 2002 to his final months this year. A truly lovely man who mastered the art of living while touching the lives of hundreds if not thousands of people always in a positive way. There was always something to learn from Adrian and somehow he made the experience so much fun.

Adrian: you were loved and admired by many many people maybe more than you ever knew.
Rest in peace. Graham

Graham Dutfield

Adrian Sterling was the most important role model and mentor in my life. He introduced me to a simple motto - let us be glorious and bigger than life in everything we do in the world of living enjoying studying researching copyright comparative law writing opera literature stories laughter and so on. The second related lesson I learnt - you're never ever too old to learn new theories new mediums of technologies and new ways of living and enjoying - especially from the young. I am such a lucky lucky girl to have stumbled upon him in my late twenties ... and we immediately started talking about Handel and my hat which apparently was reminiscent of Paddington Bear. So many memories but I recall one particularly when we sat on a bench in St Paul's tube station for an hour debating and laughing about copyright Mickey Mouse and the effects of ss. 51 & 52 CDPA.....we quarrelled a lot and yet invariably ended up smiling at each other acknowledging that we must enjoy life. Every time I was furious at something or someone - I would get a phone call or a fax (remember those things) or an email with these unforgettable words: Imagine you're a Spanish Galleon Uma.. you're like Her Majesty ... just rise above it and sail graciously away." I loved him so much.

Uma Suthersanen

“Dear Caroline,

Adrian was a very special teacher and person. I will miss him. I think about him and smile every time I look at my bookshelves. I met Adrian as one of about 90 new CCLS students at Cumberland Lodge 21 years ago. At the first reception he graciously chatted with me for a few minutes. Two weeks later as I approached the podium for his attendance-taking in the first class he said “Hello Ms. Flanagan!” as he checked off my name on his roster. Although I was amazed that he remembered my name that amazement was only the start. During that year I watched Professor Sterling copyright raconteur supreme leaning casually in front of the podium deliver engaging lectures on the copyright law of four jurisdictions and Berne without notes or hesitation and full of personal anecdotes. He had all of us enthralled. We knew that he was as excited by the subject as we were. I know that his passion for it never wavered or for his love of teaching. I am grateful to have had Professor Sterling as my teacher and gracious colleague for many years. I will treasure the small volume of his lovely poetry he gave me. As his loving wife and partner in his work and student-centered engagement all those years I know your loss is very great. I thank you for sharing him with us and helping him to be with us as long as he was able.

My deepest condolences,

“

Anne Flanagan

Professor Sterling was such a highlight of my year at Queen Mary . His and Caroline’s hospitality and adventures were a real treat especially as we were also living in the same area. Even in the depths of winter (darkness is not an easy thing for an Australian to bear) it was an enormous comfort to be promised by another Australian that it wouldn’t be dark before 3pm and we would make it though. His enthusiasm for copyright was infectious so even though I was primarily a trade mark law specialist before I came to study I enjoyed dabbling in copyright law and policy immensely. I am very grateful to Professor Sterling for sharing his knowledge and the joys of London and welcoming another lawyer far from home and like many others will remember him not only with fondness but with a smile.

Lauren Eade

I remember Adrian's wonderful sessions at Cumberland Lodge where he inspired the LLM students to act out a play- after this first introductory session the ice was broken! He was a wonderful role model as a teacher and scholar and will be sorely missed. My heartfelt condolences!

Julia Hornle

What was most striking about Adrian were his generosity his kindness and his passion not only for copyright but also for many other things bright and beautiful particularly in the artistic field. Conversations with Adrian over Beethoven Schubert and Schiller were revelatory and will never be forgotten. Together we adopted "Ludwig" as the flagship figure for our course on the German Law of Author's Right in the PG Diploma copyright course at King's College London. His generosity to share his expertise and encyclopaedic knowledge of copyright as well as his experience in life more generally will equally be remembered. He was always available to talk and not judgmental which encouraged so many including myself to seek his advice and guidance whether in law or in life especially when reaching a crossroads. Thank you Adrian.

Brigitte Lindner

In fond memory of a great friend of the Intellectual Property Office. Professor Sterling was a kind funny and hugely intellectually gifted man who made an enormous contribution- both here in the UK and internationally- to intellectual property and copyright in particular. He helped shape thinking in the field and was a friend and mentor to so many in the Office and more widely in the copyright community. The world of copyright is a poorer place without Professor Sterling. He will be sorely missed and our sympathies go out to his beloved wife Caroline and all his family.

Here is a message from the Intellectual Property Office - Tim Moss CBE CEO and Comptroller General

Adrian Sterling was already a giant in his field when I first arrived at CCLS as a junior academic in 1999. In all those years Adrian as a lecturer set the standard to which I aspired. As much a raconteur as lecturer his presentations were a joy to see; I often suspected I was learning every bit as much as the students. Much of the impact he had was down to his genuine passion not only for the passing on of knowledge but a real and personal interest in his students as individuals. His name will live on in the lives of those whom he taught as much as in his immense contributions to the academic literature. Ave atque vale Adrian.

Gavin Sutter

Prof Sterling was one of the most special people I have met. I was always impressed with his passion for teaching and how much he cares for his students. He was an amazing storyteller and it was impossible not to listen to him!

I always feel so privileged to get to know him and be his student. He was not only a great academic who made substantial contributions to modern copyright law but a perfect role model as a person. He was a great inspiration...

It is very sad that he is not with us anymore he will definitely live through his students all around the world.

N Cansin Karga Giritli

For all those lucky and privileged enough to have received the advice and guidance from a man of such genuine belief in the importance of copyright Professor Sterling will be much missed. For individuals working with him Adrian's friendship and many considerate moments of measured advice will be irreplaceable. Thank you Adrian.

Andrew Yeates

Adrian's contribution to copyright both academically through the King's vice president of BCC that we shall remember him with rsCollege course and his work for Queen Mary's but above all formany of us it is as vice president of the BCC that we shall remember him with respectand affection.

Maureen Duffy BCC Hon Pres.

I'm so saddened by Adrian's depart from this world and my deepest sympathies go out to Caroline and her family. It was an honour to have known such a great person and I will truly miss him. May he rest in peace!

Guan H Tang

He was a wonderful and inspirational teacher his classes were the highlight of my LLM studies in 1996/1997. It is such a privilege to have known him. He will be sadly missed.

Wiebke Baars Hamburg

We are truly honoured to have been students of Professor Adrian Sterling and that we can call him and his wife Caroline our friends. We have so many unforgettable memories as the two of us met at Professor Sterling and Professor Suthersanen's International and Comparative Copyright Law class and had the pleasure of having them at our wedding. One of the most memorable moments for us was the very special Hampstead class trip with Adrian and Caroline. Shane will also never forget having been cast by Adrian to perform a scene from Shakespeare's Henry VI on the last day of class! After that we were very lucky to share so many special moments with Adrian and Caroline in Notting Hill and beyond. Paula will always cherish the beautiful memory of attending the King's College Christmas Carols service with Adrian and it has been a real honour for Paula to have been Adrian's teaching assistant at his International Copyright classes at QMUL. Shane also treasures the memory of the day Adrian invited him to the Royal Academy to spend a very pleasant couple of hours wandering around a conceptual art exhibition and of course discussing all the possible copyright implications! The support that Adrian and Caroline have always given us since our PhDs at QMUL will never be forgotten. As we are both now Copyright Law lecturers we endeavour to pass on all we have learned from Professor Sterling to our students and we are proud to share with them how great it was to have been taught by this exceptional man. Our deepest condolences to Caroline Sterling and all of Adrian's family and friends. Professor Sterling will be deeply missed.

Paula Westenberger and Shane Burke

Professor Sterling has been a great inspiration since I first became interested in intellectual property law. I feel very grateful to have had the chance to attend one of his lectures during my LLM a few years ago. It is one of my most cherished memories as a student. Condolences to the family. May he rest in peace.

Myriam Christmann